

Current Status of Claims

1. (currently amended)

A system for the sale of consumer goods, the system being designed to provide a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, said article being paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the non-validated token is checked by said unit, said checkout unit
5 having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the article has been paid for, and providing the customer with a validated token which carries a second transaction code, said validated token being used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing device with the aid
10 of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which compares the second transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the first transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and said article dispensing device delivering the article when there is a defined code correspondence,
15 **said non-validated token carrying information that is related to a unique token number and the article type, and said unique token number provided on the non-validated token constituting said second transaction code when the token is made into a validated token at the check-out unit,**

20 **wherein the non-validated token is issued by a printer controlled by an article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated token can be printed on activation of the panel,**

~~[wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is related to a unique token number and the article type,~~

25 ~~wherein the unique token number provided on the non-validated token constitutes said second transaction code when the token is made into a validated token at said checkout unit,~~] and wherein said unique token number when issued by said article token selection panel device is selected from the group consisting of:

- 30
- a serially generated code,
 - a randomly generated code,
 - a pre-determined series of codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

2. *(currently amended)*

A system for the sale of consumer goods, the system being designed to provide a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, said article being paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the non-validated token is checked by said unit, said checkout unit
5 having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the article has been paid for, and providing the customer with a validated token which carries a second transaction code, said validated token being used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing device with the aid
10 of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which compares the second transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the first transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and said article dispensing device delivering the article when there is a defined code correspondence,
15 **said non-validated token carrying information that is related to a unique token number and/or article type,**

wherein the non-validated token is issued by an article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated token can be issued on activation of the panel,

20 ~~[wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is related to a unique token number and/or the article type,]~~

**wherein the validated token provided by said checkout unit is a token which substitutes or supplements the non-validated token, said validated token being issued by the checkout unit from a token
25 dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens, and wherein the validated token carries said second transaction code which is selected from the group consisting of:**

- a serially generated transaction code,
- 30 - a randomly generated transaction code,
- a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by the article token selection panel device which provides such number on the non-validated token.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

3. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein said device for providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof, and wherein the non-validated token carries article type information selected from the group consisting of : a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code, animation of the article, article name, and article price.

4. *(canceled)*

5. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, and a manually interpretable article identification code.

6. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 5, wherein the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article name and article price.

7. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1 wherein the second transaction code is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, and a pre-programmed IC chip.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

8. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission,
- transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit, and general
- 10 merchandise transaction control unit.

9. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein said scanner device is for communicating information to the encoder device,

5 the checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a device for transmitting said first transaction code

10 communication to the article dispensing device.

10. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine reading of the second transaction code, said machine being selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 - OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader, and
- 10 - an rf label code reader.

Current Status of Claims *(cont'd)*

11. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the article dispensing device has a manually operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable second transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

12. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the first transaction code which is communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are related to each other, and selected from the group consisting of complementary codes, symmetrical codes and unsymmetrical codes.

13. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the selection panel on the selection panel device is a touch screen.

14. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 1, wherein the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

15. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed and wherein said second transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable
5 to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that bears the transaction code.

16. *(canceled)*

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

17. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission, transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

18. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein the scanner device is for communicating said information to the encoder
5 device, the checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a printer for the issue of the validated article
10 token, and a device for transmitting said communication relating to said first transaction code to the article dispensing device.

19. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 - OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader, and
- 10 - an rf label code reader.

Current Status of Claims *(cont'd)*

20. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the article dispensing device has a manually operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

21. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the first transaction code which is communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are related to each other, and are selected from the group consisting of
5 complementary codes, symmetrical codes and unsymmetrical codes.

22. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, and a manually interpretable article identification code.

23. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article name, and article price.

24. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2 wherein the second transaction code is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of
5 letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, and a pre-programmed IC chip.

25. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the selection panel on the selection panel device is a touch screen.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

26. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

27. *(previously amended)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that carries the transaction code.

28. *(previously presented)*

A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token, wherein the scanner device is for communicating information to the encoder device, 5 said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein said token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, wherein the encoder device is cooperative with a token dispenser which provides tokens with said second transaction code for 10 validation by scanning in the checkout unit, and wherein said encoder device controls a device for transmitting said first transaction codes to the article dispensing device.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

29. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods, the system being designed to provide a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, said article being to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the non-validated token is checked by said unit, said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the article has been paid for, and providing the customer with a validated token which carries a second transaction code, said validated token being to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which compares the second transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the first transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and said article dispensing device delivering the article when there is a defined code correspondence, said non-validated token carrying information that is related to a unique token number and/ or article type, wherein the non-validated token is issued by an article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated token can be issued on activation of the panel, wherein the non-validated token is at least a part of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed, wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is, on the processing thereof in the checkout unit, applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that carries the second transaction code, and wherein the said second transaction code which is selected from the group consisting of:

- a serially generated transaction code,
- a randomly generated transaction code,
- a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by the article token selection panel device which provides such number on the non-validated token.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

30. (new)

A system for the sale of consumer goods, the system being designed to provide a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, said article being to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the non-validated token is checked by said unit, said checkout unit

5 having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the article has been paid for, and providing the customer with a validated token which carries a second transaction code, said validated token being to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing device with

10 the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which compares the second transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the first transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and said article dispensing device delivering the article when there is a defined code correspondence,

15 said non-validated token carrying information that is related to a unique token number and the article type, and said unique token number provided on the non-validated token constituting said second transaction code when the token is made into a validated token at the check-out unit,

20 wherein the non-validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed and is issued by a printer controlled by an article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated token can be printed on activation of the panel,

wherein said unique token number when issued by said article token selection panel device is selected from the group consisting of:

- 25 - a serially generated code,
- a randomly generated code, and
- a pre-determined series of codes.

and

30 wherein the second transaction code on the validated token is, on the processing thereof in the checkout unit, applicable to the packaging or part thereof, transmittable to the packaging or part thereof, or provided by uncovering an area on the packaging or part thereof that carries the transaction code.

Current Status of Claims (cont'd)

31. *(new)*

A system as disclosed in claim 29, wherein
the second transaction code is selectively available from the group
consisting of:

5 a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically
readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of
letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of
punched holes, a programmable IC chip , and a pre-programmed IC chip.

32. *(new)*

A system as disclosed in claim 30, wherein
the second transaction code is selectively available from the group
consisting of:

5 a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically
readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of
letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of
punched holes, a programmable IC chip , and a pre-programmed IC chip.